(b) whether it is a fact that the current selling price of bulk drug Ranitidine is only Rs. 1,800 per kg. and M/s. Glaxo and M/s. Cadila are purchasing this bulk drug from the outside parties at this rate ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of formulations being charged by them are exhorbitant and no efforts have been made to co-relate their prices of formulations with the actual procurement price of bulk drug ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these companies are giving schemes to the wholesaler and chemists and looting the public with the due support of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : (a) The selling prices of Ranitidine formulations were fixed on 17-3-1988. While fixing these prices bulk drug import prices of Rs. 4,396 Kg. of Ranitidine was allowed.

(b) and (c) BICP are in process of conducting the Cost-*cum*-Technical study.

(d) No such complaint has been received by the Government.

Parallel drug pricing body

3076. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News item which appeared in Financial Express on 17th July, 1993 under the heading "Plan for parallel drug pricing body";

(b) if so, what are the details of such a proposal ;

(c) when was such proposal discussed and the details thereof ;

(d) whether such a system exist in any other country and whether any study has been made on this proposal, if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to circulate this proposal in Parliament for discussion and how such a proposal differ from the background note on pricing circulated earlier to Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There is no news item under the heading "Plan for parallel drug pricing body" published in the Financial Express, New Delhi Edition of 17th July, 1993 However, news item with the heading "Government to retain control over drug prices" published in the Financial Express on 17th July, 1993 has come to the notice of the Government. The report in this news item, that the Government is planning to set up a parallel body on the lines of BICP to exclusively deal with fixing of prices of various drugs is without any basis.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Action against overcharging the price of drugs

3077. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fine or imprisonment have been imposed on anybody for overcharging the price of bulk drug or a formulation under DPCO 1987 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any violation of the provisions of DPCO 1987 has taken place so far, if so, what are the details of each case and what action has been taken for each ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) To the extent information is available, the State Drug Controller of Maharashtra has filed 9 cases in the Court of law and the State Drug Controller of Gujarat has initiated action against 3 companies for violation of the provisions of DPCO, 1987.

Cases of violation of the Provisions of DPCO, 1987 are referred to the concerned State Drug Controller/Food & Drug Control Administration and they are empowered to take action under the DPCO, 1987 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Marketing Executive (IDPL)

3078. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer given to the unstarred question Nos. 1119 on 7th May, 1992, 2259 on 30th July, 1992, 4597, 4598 and 4622 on 20th August, 1992, 2910 on 18th March, 1993 and Starred Question No. 70 on 29th April, 1993 in Rajya Sabha and state :

(a) whether in reply to part (d) of the Starred Question No. 70. given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 1993, the said information given here was hidden in the reply of part (e) and (f) of the Unstarred Question No. 4598, dated 20th August, 1992 with reasons therefor ;

(b) the reasons as to how rule 30-A was applied on the Marketing Executive as stated in the referred questions on the absence since 12-3-89 (as stated) when the said rule was not even existing in the IDPL CDA Rules ;

(c) whether the C&MD issued the charge sheet as disciplinary authority under rule 25 and not under rule 30-A when the later was already in force and existing in the rules book of IDPL; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) what action Government propose to take against IDPL for providing misinformation to the above mentioned replies ;

(e) whether Government would consider to conduct a thorough probe in to this case as the replies given to the questions asked are vague ;

(f) if so, whether the probe would be conducted by an independent and impartial party ; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (g) The question relates to a former Marketing Executive of IDPL whose services were terminated by the company in accordance with the provisions of Conduct, Discipline & Appeal Rules of the company. For employees below the Board level, Government is neither the Appointing, Disciplinary, Appellate nor the Reviewing Authority and as such the Government does not intervene in the service matters of such employees of the public sector undertakings.

The company has reported that the said employee had filed a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court against the disciplinary proceedings initiated against him by the management and the writ petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. While dismissing the petition, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court observed "The petitioner has been unauthorisedly abstaining himself from joining since March, 1989. This is nothing short of indiscipline. In these circumstances, we are not inclined to interfere. Dismissed."

Aggrieved by these orders of the High Court, the petitioner filed two Special Leave Petitions in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India which were also rejected.

Complaints of non-inclusion of drugs

3079. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred Question No. 466 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1993 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a number of complaints for non-inclusion of National Health Programmes and their medicines under category-I;

(b) if so, when were such complaints received and what action Government took after that ; and

(c) what are the names of drugs against whom Government received complaints or non-inclusion under Category I and II and what are the names of drugs which have not been included despite complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After announcement of DPCO, 1987, Government received a number of representations in regard to inclusion/exclusion of bulk drugs under price control which have since been considered and form the part of the review of the drug policy 1986 in regard to which a background note has been placed on the Table of the House on 12-8-1992 for discussion.

Import of Sulphadiazine

3080. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the landed cost of import of Sulphdiazine during the year 1990-91 to date, yearwise ;

(b) what is the price of Sulphadiazine allowed in the formulations to M/s Rhone Poulenc, M/s. Hindustan Ciba Geigy and other major formulators ;

(c) Whether it is a fact that prices of formulations have been fixed without verifying the actual cost of procurement ; and

(d) what steps have been taken to recover the amount over-charged by the producer and who is responsible for this state of affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) Price of Rs. 511.79 per Kg of Sulphadiazine has been adopted for suo moto revision of the prices on 6-7-1993 of all such formulations of Sulphadiazine were the net impact was reduced in price.